

employees, benefits and other direct and indirect costs as described in the detailed instructions in the application package. While this announcement does not proscribe a rigid ratio of administrative to program costs, in general, priority will be given to proposals whose administrative costs are less than twenty-five (25) percent of the total requested from USIA. Proposals should show cost-sharing, including both contributions from the applicant and from other sources.

Please refer to the Application Package for complete budget guidelines.

Review Process

The Bureau will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines established herein and in the Application Packet. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of Bureau officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will also be reviewed by the program office, as well as embassy or consular officers for advisory review, where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Advisor or by other offices in the Department of State. Funding decisions will be made at the discretion of the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) will reside with a contracts officer with competency for Bureau programs.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered.

1. Program Planning and Ability to Achieve Objectives. Program objectives should be stated clearly and precisely and should reflect the applicant's expertise in the subject area and the region. Objectives should respond to the priority topics in this announcement and should relate to the current conditions in the included countries. Objectives should be reasonable and attainable. A detailed work plan should explain step by step how objectives will be achieved, including a timetable for completion of major tasks and activities and an outline of the selection process. The substance of the seminars, presentations, workshops, consulting, internships and itineraries should be spelled out in detail. Responsibilities of any in-country partners should be clearly described. Contact information

for any in-country partners should be included in the proposal.

2. Multiplier Effect/Impact: Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

3. Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

4. Institutional Capability: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program's goals. The narrative should demonstrate proven ability to handle logistics. Proposals should reflect the institution's expertise in the subject area and knowledge of the conditions in the targeted region.

5. Follow-on Activities: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without Bureau support) ensuring that Bureau-supported programs are not isolated events.

6. Project Evaluation: Proposals should include a plan and methodology to evaluate the program's successes, both as activities unfold and at the end of the program. The Bureau recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description and/or plan for use of another measurement technique (such as a focus group) to link outcomes to original project objectives.

7. Cost-effectiveness and Cost Sharing: Overhead and administrative costs in the proposal, including salaries, subcontracts for services and honoraria, should be kept low. Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in the RFP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the

availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements. Organizations will be expected to cooperate with the Bureau in evaluating their programs under the principles of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, which requires federal agencies to measure and report on the results of their programs and activities.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated, and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: August 27, 1999.

William Kiehl,

Acting Deputy Associate, Director for Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Announcement of the 2000 Solicited Grant Competition Grant Program

AGENCY: United States Institute of Peace.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agency announces its 2000 Solicited Grant Competition. The themes and topics for the 2000 Solicited competition are listed below.

- Solicitation A: Great Power Relations: United States, China, and Russia
- Solicitation B: Intervention and Humanitarian Assistance
- Solicitation C: Africa
- Solicitation D: Training

Deadline for Receipt of Applications: December 30, 1999.

Notification of Awards: March 2000.

Applications Material: Available upon request.

ADDRESSES: For Application Package: United States Institute of Peace, Grant Program, Solicited Grants-FR, 1200 17th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036-3011, (202) 429-3842 (phone), (202) 429-6063 (fax), E-mail: grant_program@usip.org

Application material available on-line starting September 1: www.usip.org

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Grant Program: Phone (202) 429-3842.

Dated: August 27, 1999.

Bernice J. Carney,

Director, Office of Administration.

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